

Issue NE-CW3502, released September 3, 2002, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541, e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov, Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending September 1, 2002, rains and seasonally cooler temperatures improved conditions of soybeans, sorghum, and alfalfa, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Top soil moisture supplies improved but subsoil supplies were still 90 percent short or very short across the state. Grasshoppers continued to present problems in some areas. Producer activities included preparations for fall harvest, cutting dryland crops for silage or hay and livestock care.

This release is based on reports and data from county extension educators, FSA county directors, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. Access weekly reports back to 1947 and current county specific comments at: <http://www.agr.state.ne.us/agstats/cropwthr.htm>

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged from two to six degrees above normals across the state. Precipitation was statewide and ranged from traces to over 3.0 inches. Heavy rains and hail in extreme southwest Nebraska washed out fences and caused soil erosion.

Field Crops Report: All corn condition was virtually unchanged at 30 percent good and excellent, well below the average of 63. Irrigated corn condition continued at 49 percent good and excellent, below the five-year average of 74. Dryland corn rated 4 percent good and excellent, far below the average of 48. The crop was 77 percent dented, ahead of last year at 74 and average at 67. Thirteen percent was mature, ahead of last year at 12 and average at 8.

Soybean condition improved and rated 20 percent very poor, 24 poor, 31 fair, 21 good, and 4 excellent, well below last year and average. Thirty-one percent of the acreage had turned color, ahead of last year and average at 23. Leaves were dropping on 7 percent of the acreage, ahead of last year at 5 and average at 6.

Sorghum condition improved and rated 43 percent very poor, 27 poor, 24 fair, and 6 good, well below last year and average. Ninety-four percent of the fields had headed, behind last year at 99 and average at 98. Fields were turning color on 58 percent of the acreage, behind last year at 61 but ahead of average at 53. Three percent was mature, near last year at 2 and average at 5.

Dry bean acreage had 38 percent with leaves turned color, ahead of last year at 28 and average at 31. Twenty-seven percent had dropped leaves, near last year at 28 and average at 24. Condition rated 13 percent very poor, 24 poor, 32 fair, 26 good, and 5 excellent.

Proso millet harvest was 13 percent combined to date, behind 16 percent last year.

Wheat seeding began in several areas with 2 percent sown to date, near last year and average at 3 percent. Precipitation in the Panhandle and southwest over the last few weeks should aid germination.

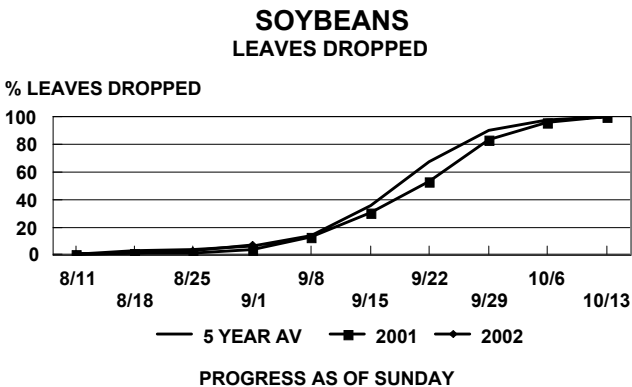
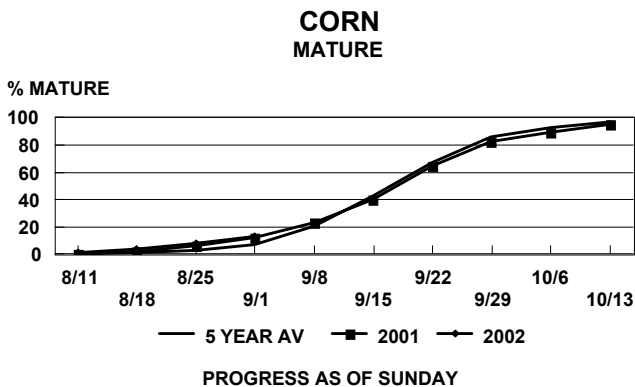
Alfalfa condition improved and rated 32 percent very poor, 26 poor, 23 fair, and 19 good, well below last year and average. Third cutting progress slowed last week with 85 percent harvested, near last year at 89 and average at 83. Where growth permitted a fourth cutting, those activities were 9 percent complete. This compares to 5 percent last year and 6 average.

Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report: Pasture and range conditions rated 60 percent very poor, 26 poor, 11 fair, and 3 good, well below average. Numerous producers continued to provide supplemental feed or move cattle to market. Recent rains will help pastures.

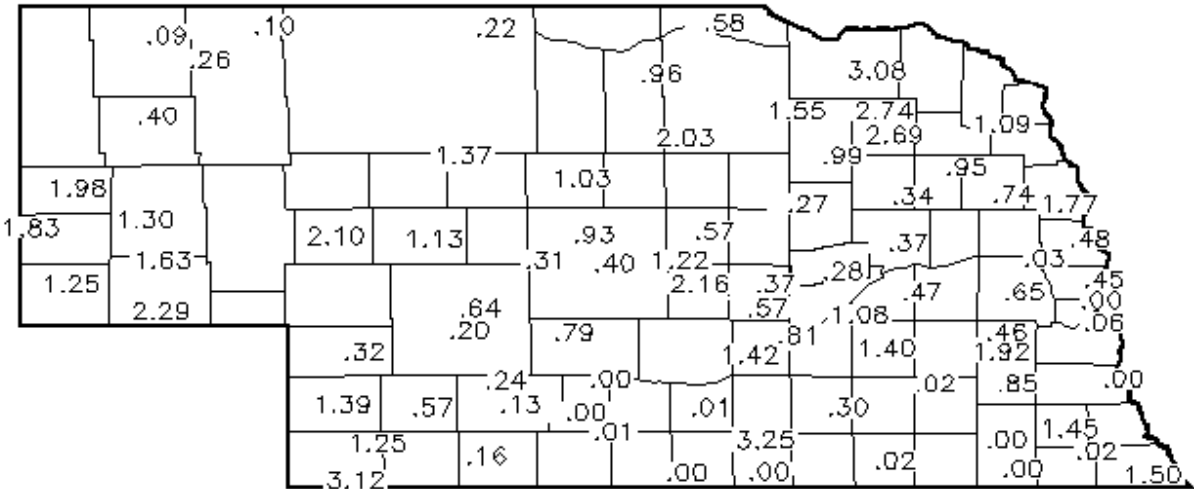
Progress and Conditions: By District, Nebraska, as of September 1, 2002

Item	Agricultural Statistics Districts								State	Last Week	Last Year	Average
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Corn Dent	23	68	69	77	86	53	95	97	77	59	74	67
% Corn Mature	0	0	15	18	13	11	23	28	13	8	12	8
% Soybeans Turning Color	¹	35	32	44	28	24	33	26	31	13	23	23
% Soybeans Dropping Leaves	¹	10	4	13	3	11	10	12	7	3	5	6
% Sorghum Headed	90	95	98	98	100	89	96	96	94	89	99	98
% Sorghum Turning Color	0	5	59	45	59	60	68	65	58	43	61	53
% Sorghum Mature	0	0	0	0	8	0	10	7	3	2	2	5
% Wheat Seeded	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	3
% Alfalfa 3 rd Cutting	50	100	90	82	90	100	100	100	85	81	89	83
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	4.8	5.2	4.0	5.4	5.3	5.9	6.4	5.4	5.2	5.5	6.3	6.4
Topsoil Moisture												
- % Very short	59	21	6	50	22	71	38	52	40	51	15	21
- % Short	20	40	38	41	32	18	39	31	31	32	38	34
- % Adequate	18	39	55	9	40	9	23	17	27	17	46	44
- % Surplus	3	0	1	0	6	2	0	0	2	0	1	1
Subsoil Moisture												
- % Very Short	75	40	41	67	61	88	86	61	63	66	18	23
- % Short	20	38	41	32	23	11	14	39	27	27	41	32
- % Adequate	5	22	18	1	14	1	0	0	10	7	40	44
- % Surplus	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

¹ Data not available.



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending September 1, 2002



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - September 1, 2002

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	1.21	1.16	1.42	.73	.81	.82	.70	.20
Total since April 1	6.95	10.45	15.42	9.70	16.71	7.48	9.60	14.79
Normal since April 1	11.79	14.76	16.78	15.97	17.85	14.04	15.92	18.58
Total as % of normal	59%	70%	91%	60%	93%	53%	60%	79%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,
Week Ending Sunday, September 1, 2002

Station		Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15		
		Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal
		High	Low					
NW	Alliance	88	51	69	3	130	2200	2193
	Scottsbluff	91	53	70	4	136	2316	2189
	Sidney	87	53	69	2	132	2344	2246
NC	Ainsworth	93	63	76	8	179	2575	2414
	Arthur	88	54	70	2	141	2353	2368
	O'Neill	88	61	74	5	164	2582	2513
NE	Concord	85	61	72	3	154	2567	2562
	Elgin	86	59	72	3	156	2606	2568
	West Point	91	59	73	3	158	2637	2706
C	Grand Island	91	59	74	4	163	2690	2599
	Lexington	91	60	73	4	163	2734	2557
	Ord	87	61	73	4	161	2636	2581
EC	Lincoln	91	63	76	4	179	2964	2843
	Central City	92	60	74	4	165	2714	2637
	Mead	89	60	74	2	163	2776	2801
SW	Champion	90	56	71	3	146	2488	2419
	North Platte	93	57	73	5	157	2591	2443
	Curtis	92	60	75	6	168	2680	2479
SC	Arapahoe	89	54	71	4	146	2379	2360
	Minden	90	60	73	4	163	2688	2566
	Red Cloud	95	63	76	6	173	2941	2629
SE	Beatrice	91	62	75	3	172	2862	2844
	Clay Center	91	61	74	4	162	2684	2623
	Nemaha	95	64	78	6	183	3008	2853

Source: High Plains Climate Center.